

HOUSE BILL 184
By Turner M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 10, to enact the "Measure Campaign Disclosure Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Measure Campaign Disclosure Act".

SECTION 2. (a) The legislature finds that:

(1) In various ways, current campaign disclosure laws are less sufficient for measure campaigns than they are for political candidate campaigns.

(2) Because of the absence of contribution limits, and the potential damage to state policy, it is especially important for measure campaigns to provide accurate and timely disclosure of their fundraising and spending.

(3) Strengthening disclosure requirements is particularly important because soft money contributions, recently banned from federal campaigns, may soon be diverted to fund measure campaigns.

(b) This act is enacted to improve the democratic process for the adoption or defeat of measures placed on a ballot by providing crucial information to the public in a timely, accessible manner.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-10-105, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

() In addition to all other registration requirements, the following requirements shall apply to measure campaigns:

(1) Within ten (10) days after first collecting or spending one hundred dollars (\$100) or more in an attempt to encourage a local government or the general assembly to place a measure on the ballot, or to support or oppose a measure on the ballot, a person, group or entity shall register with the registry of election finance as a measure committee. However, if it is within thirty (30) days of election day when the measure appears on the ballot, the person, group or entity shall register as a measure committee within twenty-four (24) hours after first collecting or spending one hundred dollars (\$100) or more.

(2) The registration of the measure committee shall clearly describe the nature of the measure, and whether the committee supports or opposes such measure.

() In addition to all other reporting requirements, the following requirements shall apply to any measure committee:

(1) After registering with the registry of election finance, a measure committee shall file a campaign disclosure report, as described in this section within ten (10) days after the end of each calendar quarter.

(2) If a measure committee receives a contribution of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more between the closing date of the last pre-election disclosure report and election day, the committee shall disclose that contribution within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt in a manner designated by the registry of election finance.

(3) In each campaign disclosure report, a measure committee shall list, for any donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more, the occupation and employer of an individual, or the nature of business of a contributor that is not an individual.

(4) If a measure committee collects or spends, or expects to collect or spend, over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) throughout the measure campaign, the committee shall file all financial disclosure reports by electronic means, in such form as the registry of election finance directs.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 10, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 2-10-211. The registry of election finance shall make all registration forms and campaign finance reports for measure committees easily accessible, searchable and sortable through the Internet.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.